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REMARKS

In the final rejection of December 14, 2006, the Examiner indicates that claims 6 and 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, in order to clearly place the present application in condition for allowance, the limitations of claim 6 and 13 have been included in independent claims 1 and 2, respectively. Thus, independent claims 1 and 2 are now clearly allowable. Furthermore, claims 6, 11 and 13 have been cancelled, and each of claims 10 and 16 has been amended to depend from one of the allowable independent claims.

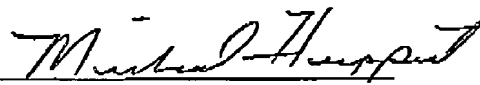
Note that each of the independent claims also includes test conditions specified in the first example described in the specification. Accordingly, independent claims 1-2 are now clearly allowable, and the remaining claims 3-5, 7-10, 12, and 14-16 depend, directly or indirectly, from one of the independent claims, and are therefore allowable at least by virtue of their dependencies.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the present application is now clearly in condition for allowance. The Examiner therefore is requested to enter the above amendment and pass this case to issue.

In the event that the Examiner has any comments or suggestions of a nature necessary to place this case in condition for allowance, then the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney by telephone to promptly resolve any remaining matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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